

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055819
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 H-01 /029 R

DRAFTED BY HA:CBRODY:LM
APPROVED BY HA:PDERIAN
EUR/NE: C SCHALLER
CA/SCS:FLAMBERT

-----117702 042118Z /72

R 040106Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055819

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UK, CARR

SUBJECT: U.S. HUMAN RIGHTSPOLICY: INQUIRY TO FCO RE TWO
PRISONERS IN U.K. JAILS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS SUGGESTING THAT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REMISS IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS ENDEAVORS IN FAILING TO MAKE INQUIRIES OF HMG ON PLIGHT OF PRISONERS IN BRITISH JAILS. RANGE OF ISSUES RAISED HAS INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF NORTHERN IRISH PRISONERS, TREATMENT METED OUT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN JAIL AND INQUIRIES BY AMCITS REGARDING WELFARE OF IMPRISONED RELATIVES.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DERIAN HAS RECEIVED TWO PARTICULAR WRITTEN INQUIRIES ABOUT WHICH DEPARTMENT BELIEVES EMBASSY MIGHT MAKE INQUIRY TO FCO.

3. THE FIRST MATTER INVOLVES KEVIN CONCAGH, CURRENTLY
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IMPRISONED IN NORTHERN IRELAND, ABOUT WHOM HIS SISTER (AMCIT) PAULINE CONCAGH HAS ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE HIS WELFARE, STATUS OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND POSSIBILITY FOR VISIT BY FAMILY. MS. CONCAGH ALLEGES THAT HER BROTHER HAS BEEN IMPRISONED AND INTERROGATED IMPROPERLY AND THAT HER MANY ATTEMPTS TO CONVEY THIS TO NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN REBUFFED. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE

INFORMATION ON CONCAGH, INCLUDING HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS, WHETHER HE HAS BEEN TRIED, AND WHETHER VISITS ARE POSSIBLE.

4. SECOND MATTER INVOLVES AMCIT THELMA WHITE, A BLACK WOMAN APPARENTLY SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR THEFT TO WHICH SHE PLED GUILTY. INQUIRY ABOUT HER SITUATION, RECEIVED FROM WALTER V. BROOKS, ALLEGES THAT MS. WHITE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED OPPORTUNITY TO BE MOVED FROM MAXIMUM SECURITY CONFINEMENT TO A REDUCED SECURITY FACILITY, ALTHOUGH OTHER PRISONERS, HAVING SERVED THE AMOUNT OF THE TIME ALREADY SERVED BY MS. WHITE, ARE USUALLY TRANSFERRED. MR. BROOKS HAS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT WITH COMPREHENSIVE, DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HIS EFFORTS TO INTERCEDE WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES AND TO ENLIST THE HELP OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LONDON TO DETERMINE WHETHER HMG AUTHORITIES' REFUSAL TO TRANSFER MS. WHITE, IF SUCH IS THE CASE, IS CONSISTENT WITH NORMAL PRACTICE. DEPARTMENT IS NOT WELL-ENOUGH INFORMED ON THIS POLICY, AND NOTES THAT MR. BROOKS SUGGESTS WHITE'S ALLEGED PREJUDICIAL TREATMENT IS A CONSEQUENCE OF HER BEING BLACK. EMBASSY ASKED TO CONFIRM ANY RECORD OF CONTACT BY MR. BROOKS, AND MS. WHITE'S IMPRISONMENT AND POSSIBILITIES FOR TRANSFER

5. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES SENSITIVITY IN RAISING ISSUE OF NORTHERN IRISH PRISONER WITH FCO AND IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY'S COMMENTS EVEN IF THIS CAUSES DELAY IN MAKING INQUIRY. PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE DO NOT SEE SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITH WHITE CASE AND ASSUME THAT EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE055819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CBRODY:LM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780099-0959
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803106/aaaadlxj.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84487bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3115501
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. HUMAN RIGHTSPOLICY: INQUIRY TO FCO RE TWO PRISONERS IN U.K. JAILS
TAGS: SHUM, CARR, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84487bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014